*****Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education***

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| Jeffrey C. Riley*Commissioner* |  |

# MEMORANDUM

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| **To:** | Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education |
| **From:**  | Jeffrey C. Riley, Commissioner |
| **Date:**  | May 17, 2023 |
| **Subject:** | Update on DESE’s Educational Vision and Strategic Objective Framework |

This memorandum provides an update on the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s (DESE’s) Educational Vision and Strategic Objective Framework. When I was appointed nearly five years ago, I traveled the state listening and crafting “[Our Way Forward](https://www.doe.mass.edu/bese/docs/fy2019/2019-06/item2.docx),” a vision for teaching and learning across the Commonwealth. Two focal themes of "[Our Way Forward](https://www.doe.mass.edu/bese/docs/fy2019/2019-06/item2.docx)” are Deeper Learning for all students and DESE as Partner to districts, schools, and programs. Just as the team at DESE began working to implement new strategies to support this work, the pandemic hit. I am proud of the way our DESE team supported districts during the pandemic while taking important steps to address the themes laid out in “[Our Way Forward](https://www.doe.mass.edu/bese/docs/fy2019/2019-06/item2.docx).”

Starting in spring 2022, DESE began work on an Educational Vision that focuses on Deeper Learning and DESE as Partner. The working group used DESE’s Racial and Equity Decision-making Tool (REDT) to analyze data and historical context, engage stakeholders, and identify racial equity strategies and impact. The working group finalized a draft of the new Educational Vision (attachment) in December 2022. Once the new vision was finalized, leaders at the Department identified the key Strategic Objectives and focus areas that will guide the Department’s work in supporting districts to achieve the key concepts presented in the Educational Vision.

The Department’s internal planning process will result in a Catalog of Aligned Supports that will be shared with the field and will include the guidance, resources and tools, professional learning opportunities, and grant offerings organized by Strategic Objective. The Catalog of Aligned Supports will allow districts to have easier access to DESE supports and will help districts make strategic and informed decisions.

At the May 23 meeting, Deputy Commissioners Regina Robinson and Russell Johnston and Chief of Schools Komal Bhasin will present on the Educational Vision.

Attachment: Educational Vision